

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01318 191509Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 OMB-01 DHA-02 TRSE-00 EB-08 /068 W  
-----101679 200125Z /73

R 191310Z AUG 77  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9364  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ECON, PBOR, PINT, IS, JO, XF  
SUBJECT: LACONI ERLICH MEETS WEST BANK BUSINESSMEN

1. GOI FINMIN ERLICH MET IN RAMALLAH AUGUST 17  
HEADS OF WEST BANK CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE FROM  
HEBRON, BETHLEHEM, JERUDALEM, RAMALLAH, NABLUS AND  
JENIN. ALSO PRESENT WERE MILGOV OFFICIALS.

1. MEDIA REPORT INTENT OF MEETING WAS EXPLANATION OF  
GOI DECISION TO EQUALIZE "SERVICES" TO INHABITANTS  
OF WEST BANK. HOWEVER, ARAB PARTICIPANTS TELL US  
THAT ERLICH SPOKE FOR ONLY A COUPLE OF MINUTES  
DURING THE MEETING OF MORE THAN AN HOUR AND THEN  
MERELY TO ASSERT THAT GOI DECISION REFLECTED ITS  
"HUMANITARIAN" CONCERN AND NOT DESIGNED AS A STEP  
IN ANNEXATION. DETAILS OF NEW SERVICES NOT GIVEN,  
NOR EXPLANATION OF HOW THEY WILL BE FINANCED.

3. WEST BANKERS REHEARSED LONG CATALOGUE OF GRIEVANCES:  
IMPORT RESTRICTIONS, PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR ISRAELI  
FIRMS, "ILLEGAL" TAXES, ETC. ERLICH LISTENED, BUT DID  
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PAGE 02 JERUSA 01318 191509Z

NOT RESPOND TO SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS OR REQUESTS. INSTEAD,  
HE ASKED WEST BANKERS TO DRAW UP DETAILED ECONOMIC  
PROJECTS WHICH ARE TO BE DISCUSSED AT A SECOND MEETING  
AFTER RAMADAN.

4. COMMENT: IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER ERLICH REALLY  
INTENDED HIS MEETING WITH WEST BANKERS TO BE USEFUL

IN EITHER REASSURING THEM OR EXCHANGING INFORMATION.  
MORE LIKELY, THE FINMIN WANTED MERELY TO MAKE A SHOW  
OF MOTION AND CONSULTATION POINTEDLY WITH THE MORE  
AMENABLE LEADERSHIP OF THE MORIBUND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE  
THAN THE TROUBLESOME MUNICIPALITIES. AS MUCH IN THE  
DARK AS EVER, THE BUSINESSMEN, LIKE THE MAYORS, ARE  
GENERALLY WITHHOLDING PUBLIC COMMENT OR PROTEST.  
PRIVATELY, WEST BANKERS DRAW THIS EQUATION: INCREASED  
SERVICES EQUAL INCREASED TAXES EQUAL CHANGES IN  
JORDANINA LAW EQUAL STEPS IN ANNEXATION. IN THE PAST,  
WEST BANKERS HAVE USUALLY SHOWN FLEXIBILITY IN  
PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS, I.E., INCREASED TAXES, AND  
INFLEXIBILITY IN MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE, I.E., CHANGES  
IN LAW.  
KRUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WEST BANK, BUSINESSMEN, HUMAN RIGHTS, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 19-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977JERUSA01318  
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**Film Number:** D770300-1117  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 511f0358-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1551639  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LACONI ERLICH MEETS WEST BANK BUSINESSMEN  
**TAGS:** ECON, PBOR, PINT, IS, JO, XF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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